

FULL COUNCIL 8th FEBRUARY 2017
7:30PM THE CIVIC CENTRE

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Cllr Ball, Leader Cllr Southern, Deputy Leader Cllr Morris,
Cllr Horwood, Cllr Willingale, Cllr C Barnes, Cllr J Barnes, Cllr Scott
Cllr Dyball, Cllr Hogg, Cllr Searles, Cllr Komolafe,
Cllr Halford

Officers: CEO Steve Nash, Civic Manager Toni Roast

Information: The Mayor advised Councillors that item 17 would not be discussed as this was still a Draft proposal

Blessing: The Mayor had invited Reverend Dane Batley-Gladden to say a short prayer at the start of the meeting and invited those not wishing to take part to leave at this time.

1. **To receive Apologies for Absence**
Cllr L Gaire, Cllr S Gaire, Cllr Komolafe
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest**
None received
3. **To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017.**
AGREED
4. **To receive Minutes of Committees and approve recommendations contained therein:**

Development Control	DATE: 11 th January 2017
Finance and Audit	DATE: 14 th December 2016

AGREED
5. **TRAINING POLICY**
Cllr Southern spoke on the report and reminded councillors that we needed to invest in our staff while ensure care of available finances. He commended the Training Policy Report A to the council

RESOLVED: That the Training Policy is adopted

6. WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

Cllr Southern advised councillors that such policies were now common place and that any Whistle Blower must be protected from wrong doers. Cllr Halford also agreed that this was necessary to protect members of staff in bringing forward information.

RESOLVED: That the Whistle Blowing Policy is adopted

7. BUDGET

The previous figure reported had been wrong as the council tax base had changed councillors were asked to approve the revised figure of £539,867 which still represents a 2% increase.

APPROVED

8. PRESS POLICY

Councillors Horwood and Scott raised concerns over sections 3 & 4 and did not want to be tied to a single decision which is how they interpreted the statements. Cllr Southern suggested that these sections be re-written and the document be brought back to a future meeting

RESOLVED: That the policy be brought back to a future meeting

9. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The CEO outlined the need to dispose of certain items listed in the report both to free up space and generate possible income. Cllr Southern volunteered to assist in the disposal of these items as he had previous experience of selling kitchen equipment and that he would be happy to meet with the CEO.

RESOLVED: That disposal of the items go ahead and that the CEO liaise with Cllr Southern

10. REDUCTION OF COMMITTEES

The CEO outlined the need to reduce the number of committees and that the amalgamation of Finance and Audit with Swanley Banqueting was a logical step.

RESOLVED: That the Finance and Audit Committee and Swanley Banqueting Committee be amalgamated from 1st April 2017

11. MARKETS POLICY

Cllr Halford supported the idea of markets and thought it would be good for the town. Cllr Hogg suggested that this was a good idea to help with regeneration of the town and would work far better than the extra housing being suggested by Sevenoaks District Council in helping put the town on the map.

RESOLVED: That the Markets policy is adopted

The Mayor invited questions from the public at this time

Mr Bob Alexander asked what was happening with the Station Road Property. Cllr Southern and the CEO explained that things were progressing with an application for a Micro Brewery and the CEO hoped things would progress in the next 4-6 weeks.

Mr Prestedge thanked all councillors for their opposition to the Garden Village and thought they had represented the town very well.

12. OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN BELT

Cllr Southern put forward a proposal that a statement be sent to Sevenoaks District Council confirming the position of Swanley Town Council in opposing the use of Green Belt. Some discussion took place amongst councillors and Councillor Hogg offered a final amendment.

ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE KNOWN TO IT AT THIS TIME SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL REAFFIRMS ITS OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT ON THE GREEN BELT LYING WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE TOWN BOUNDARY

RESOLVED: By unanimous vote that this statement be sent to Sevenoaks District Council CEO and Cabinet Members immediately

13. OBJECTION TO VISION PLAN

Councillor Southern offered the following motion

That Swanley Town Council objects to the Vision Plan prepared by Tibbalds for SDC on the grounds that:

- a. It offers no solution to traffic congestion and hence poor air quality; in fact it will worsen them.
- b. That it reduces the present allocation of recreational space which the Town Council provides.
- c. That it attempts to take away the Recreation Ground which is held in trust for the residents of Swanley.
- d. That it is unjustifiable development of the Green Belt
- e. That it does not attempt to resolve issues of civic infrastructure that would arise from such a development – schools, GP facilities and similar essential facilities.
- f. That it expropriates the Civic Centre and adjacent sporting facilities which are the property of the town council and residents of Swanley.

A great deal of discussion took place with a number of points raised:

Cllr Morris had observed that depending on the audience approached the questions would change and wondered how many times had the question changed to give SDC their hoped for outcome.

Cllr Horwood thought it ironic that the petition of 1840 residents was ignored as SDC felt they didn't know what they were on about. Yet those same people, some of whom were involved in the survey were accepted as knowing what they were doing. Cllr Scott and Barnes questioned the ethics of the data and the way it was being used as there are very clear guidelines on this which are clearly being ignored.

RESOLUTION: A recorded vote was taken and it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of this meeting be sent to the CEO and Cabinet Members of Sevenoaks District Council to lodge the objections of Swanley Town Council to the Vision Plan

14. Mayors Communication

The Mayor attended Horizon Academy on 12th January where he was invited to talk to a number of classes. The young people asked about the history of the town and it was great fun

On the 7th February the Mayor visited the Food Bank and was very impressed by the work going on there and how very organised the staff are. He had been unaware until his visit that they offered life skills in cooking, managing finances and felt it was a very worthwhile facility and congratulated all those involved.

15. Report from County and District Councillors

Cllr Horwood outlined the changes to Adult Social care taking place and the need to increase spending to secure services. He also provide an update on the 20mph speed limits to be imposed on St Marys Road and the 'repeater signs' to encourage people to slow down. He thanked the Civic Manager Toni Roast for opening the offices at the weekend and allowing a meeting to take place there. Cllr Horwood has also made some of his councillor grant available to Swanley Town Council to support Armed Forces Day in June.

Councillor Halford raised the issue of a death on London Road and asked what was being done about this. Cllr Hogg and Dyball also had concerns over the lack of adequate street lighting on the roads with a number of lights out on that stretch of road.

Cllr Horwood explained that there were a row of 10 lights out but that they had in fact been turned off as part of a cost saving measure across the county. However in light of concerns from councillors he will ask questions about their possible re-instatement.

16. Forthcoming Meetings

Development Control	7:30pm Wednesday 22 nd February 2017
Finance and Audit	7:30pm Wednesday 22 nd February 2017
Personnel	7:30pm Wednesday 22 nd February 2017
Full Council	7:30pm Wednesday 8 th March 2017

Meeting closed at 9pm

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Mr Steve Nash, on 01322 611663 or snash@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Council Members:

Mayor Cllr Ball

Leader Cllr Southern

Deputy Leader Cllr Morris

Cllr L Dyball

Cllr C Barnes

Cllr L Gaire

Cllr S Gaire

Cllr T Searles

Cllr M Hogg

Cllr Horwood

Cllr Halford

Cllr Scott

Cllr Willingale

Cllr J Barnes

Cllr E Komolafe